



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 4, 2004

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**NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZED CRIME
DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE ("OCDETF")**

**FRANKLIN MAN, MEMBER OF FREELANCERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB, INDICTED ON
FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND WEAPONS CHARGES**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, New Hampshire State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth, and Clifford Ellston, Resident Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announce that Bruce Belton, age 60 of Franklin, New Hampshire, was indicted on September 29, 2004 on federal drug trafficking and weapons and drug charges.

The indictment against BELTON, a member of the Sullivan County-based Freelancers Motorcycle Club, charges him with:

- Conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine;
- Possession w/intent to distribute methamphetamine;
- Being a felon in possession of three firearms; and
- Possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking.

The U.S. District Court will schedule an arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge. BELTON has been detained without bail since his June 30, 2004 arrest.

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDETF").

An indictment is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases, each defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.